

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 SWF-02 SAM-01 DRC-01 /195 W

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R 261750Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8663

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: EC CAP FOR SOYBEANS

REF: STATE 083747

SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIONS TO GOF OFFICIALS AT MFA AND
MINISTRY OF FINANCE ALONG LINES PROPOSED IN REFTEL WERE
MADE ON APRIL 26. FRENCH BELIEVE US EXAGGERATING IM-
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PORTANCE OF SOYBEAN CAP BUT ADMIT CURRENT STRONG GOF

SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM. THEY INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT SOYBEAN CAP WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE DEALT WITH IN DEPTH AT UP-COMING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, IF AT ALL.

1. WE CONTACTED BERNARD BOCHET, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION SERVICE AT QUAI D'ORSAY, AND HIS SUBORDINATE CLAUDE-MICHEL DE PIERREDON, QUAI AGRICULTURAL EXPERT. POINTS MADE IN REFTEL WERE STRESSED TO BOTH OFFICIALS; BOTH WERE ADVISED THAT SOYBEAN CAP AND ITS DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS COULD OPEN PANDORA'S BOX BY ADDING HEAVILY TO FEOCA PAYMENTS WHICH WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY COME OUT OF STATE BUDGETS. BOCHET'S ONLY COMMENT WAS THAT L973 EXPORT CONTROLS BY US ON SOYBEANS WAS RUDE SHOCK FOR EC; IT HAD DEMONSTRATED EC VULNERABILITY ON PROTEIN SUPPLY QUESTION AND HAS INSPIRED POLICY TO DECREASE DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE SOURCES FOR PROTEIN. WE COUNTERED BY EMPHASIZING ABUNDANT US CROP AND LOW PRICE, ADMITTING EXPORT CONTROLS HAD BEEN MISTAKE.

2. DE PIERREDON, WHO WILL BE ATTENDING APRIL 29-30 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (AGRICULTURAL), EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT AT OUR INTEREST IN SOYBEAN CAP WHICH HE SAID WAS NOT EVEN ON AGENDA FOR MEETING. HE SAID AGRICULTURE MINISTERS WERE PRESENTLY PRE-OCCUPIED WITH SUCH QUESTIONS AS SUGAR AND MEAT AND, TO SOME EXTENT, WINE. HE DOUBTED QUESTION OF SOYBEAN CAP WOULD EVEN COME UP. REGARDING ARGUMENTATION IN REFTEL, HE DISAGREED WITH POTENTIAL FOR EC PRODUCTION OUTLINED IN PARA 3 AND HEWED TO EC LINE OF 100,000 TONS PRODUCTION BY 1978 WHICH WAS ONLY SMALL FRACTION OF EC REQUIREMENTS. HE ADMITTED STRONG FRENCH BACKING OF SOYBEAN CAP.

3. YVES LAFAURIE, CHIEF OF AGRICULTURAL SECTION AT MINISTRY OF FINANCE'S DREE, AGREED FOR THE MOST PART WITH ARGUMENTATION OF REFTEL, THOUGH HE BELIEVED WE EXAGGERATE IMPORTANCE OF WHOLE QUESTION. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT COME WHAT MAY, SOYBEAN CAP OR NOT, FRANCE INTENDED TO PUT 100,000 HECTARES INTO SOYBEAN PRODUCTION DURING NEXT TEN YEARS. HE DID NOT SEE THREAT TO US IN SUCH A MODEST PROGRAM BUT DID SEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POTENTIAL DRAIN ON FRENCH BUDGET WHICH HE DID NOT BELIEVE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO GET OUT OF HAND.
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, SOYBEANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS10213
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740100-0170
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740411/aaaaaizu.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 083747
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC CAP FOR SOYBEANS
TAGS: ETRD, FR, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005